

P3, B11

Testimony (Bill 11)

May 7, 2012

In today's newspaper, I read about Bill 11, which calls for a complete ban of all commercial activities at Kailua beach. I absolutely oppose Bill 11. I am a professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and do not own a business that uses the beach parking lot. Even though I work in Manoa, I choose to live in Kailua because I love Kailua beach. I go there often, but I have never been bothered by so-called "commercial activities" there. There has not been a single case of crime involving the commercial vendors and tourists. In fact, I enjoy seeing people setting up kites and kayaking etc. What is wrong with tour buses come to drop off tourists? If we ban tour buses come to the beach parking lot, more people will drive to Kailua beach. As a consequence, more cars on the road in Kailua town and will not have enough parking spaces in the beach parking lots. Also, some tourists cannot drive to Kailua. If we ban tour buses, how would tourists who cannot drive come to Kailua beach? Furthermore, total ban on commercial activities at the beach will certainly hurt business owners in Kailua. Those who want to ban these activities are narrow-minded. I believe that we should share this natural beauty with everyone who loves the beach. It is selfish to prevent commercial vendors from doing business there and tourists from coming to the beautiful beach. We have to remember that Hawaii's main industry is tourism. We cannot confine tourists and commercial activities only to Waikiki. Kailua is a great place, and I love to share this beautiful natural resource with anyone who loves it – locals and tourists. A total ban on commercial activities at Kailua beach will only hurt the business communities and the reputation of Kailua.

Haruko Cook (Kailua resident of 23 years)

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